

In the Claims:

Amend Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 12, 13, and cancel Claim 14.

1. (Currently amended). A connecting element for an assembly system comprising a plurality of system support, ~~such as an assembly system having system supports, wherein the supports~~ have openings arranged in a defined spacing on at least one of ~~the~~ an outer walls (68.1, 68.2) of the system support, wherein said connecting element (1; 11; 31; 65) comprises a first member (2; 12; 32) and at least one second member (3; 13; 33) with at least one of said first and second members (2; 12; 32.3; 13; 33) having at least one elongated opening (4, 5; 14, 15, 34, 35, 66) ~~with at least notches over the length of said at least one elongated opening~~ with at least a plurality of notches (6, 7) extending continuously in side-by-side relation over the length of said at least one elongated opening with elongated parallel side said notches extending transversal of the length of said elongated opening, said notches arranged for securing said connecting element (1; 11; 31; 65) to a support or to a base surface by a fastening element (61), passed through the at least one elongated opening (4, 5; 14, 15, 34, 35; 66), and engageable with complementary notches (69.1, 69.2) of ~~the~~ a fastening element (61).

2. (Currently amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second member (3; 13; 33) is arranged essentially perpendicular to said first member (2; 12; 32) ~~and at least one of said first and second members (2, 3, 12, 13, 32, 33) have at least one said elongated opening (4, 5, 14, 15, 34, 35) and at least said notches (6, 7, 20, 21, 37.1, 37.2) over the length of said at least one elongated opening (4, 5, 14, 15, 34, 35).~~

3. (Original). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second member (33) is a connector (33) formed of a profile section with openings (41.1 to 41.4; 51.2, 51.4; 52.1, 52.3) for fixing the support by fastening elements passable through said openings (41.1 to 41.4; 51.2, 51.4; 52.1, 52.3) in said connector (33).

4. (Currently amended). A connecting element as set forth in claim 3, wherein said connector (33) comprises a ~~third member~~ base plate (32), and said ~~third member~~ base plate has at least one elongated opening (34, 35) with notches (37.1, 37.2) located along the length of said at least one elongated opening (34, 35) for engagement with complementary notches of a fastening element.

5. (Currently amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 3, wherein an outer contour of said connector (33) is formed complementary to an

inner contour of ~~said~~ the support so that said support can slide over said connector (33).

6. (Currently amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 3, wherein an inner contour of the connector (33) is shaped ~~complementatry~~ complementary to an outer contour of ~~the~~ a support so that the support can be inserted into said connector (33).

7. (Original). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 3, wherein said connector (33) has a rectangular configuration and the openings (41.1 to 41.4; 51.2, 51.4; 52.1, 52.3) are arranged parallel to a plane for the passage of a fastening element, with said plane formed through said first member (32) of the connecting element.

8. (Original). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 7, wherein a plurality of openings (41.1 to 41.4; 51.2, 51.4; 52.1; 52.3) are arranged vertically relative to each other in a plurality of planes parallel to each other.

9. (Currently amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the notches (6, 7; 20, 21; 37.1, 37.2) are arranged on the side of said first and second members facing away from ~~said~~ the support.

10. (Currently amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said notches (6, 7; 20, 21; 37.1, 37.2; 70.1, ~~70.2~~ 70.2) comprise teeth.

11. (Original). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said connecting element (11; 31; 65) has at least one bead (16; 17; 36) extending in the elongated direction of said openings (4, 5, 14, 15, 34, 35).

12. (Currently amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 11, wherein said teeth are arranged in a at least one said bead walls of said at least one bead (16, 17, 36).

13. (Currently amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein a surface zone surrounding at least one said elongated opening has said notches (6, 7).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Original). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the outer contour of said at least one member (2, 3) is complementary to the outer contour of at least one of the supports capable of being connected with said connecting element (1; 11; 31).

16. (Withdrawn).

17. (Withdrawn).

18. (Withdrawn).

19. (Original). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 3, wherein said second member is formed of a hollow section.

20. (Currently amended). A connecting element, as set forth in claim 4, wherein said ~~third member~~ base plate (32) is arranged in the same plane as said first member.

21. (Original) A connecting element, as set forth in claim 10, wherein the pitch of said teeth is 2.5 mm.